

**Response from Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA)**

1 message

**PMRA Info / ARLA (HC/SC)** <pmra.info-arla@hc-sc.gc.ca>

Thu, Mar 7, 2024 at 8:35 /

To: ASB Committee &lt;asbprovcommittee@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: "aafc.minister-ministre.aac@agr.gc.ca" &lt;aafc.minister-ministre.aac@agr.gc.ca&gt;, "information@inspection.gc.ca" &lt;information@inspection.gc.ca&gt;

Dear Lisa Hunt:

On behalf of Frédéric Bissonnette, Executive Director of Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), I am responding to Brenda Knight's correspondence dated February 20, 2024. The Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee wrote requesting the re-registration of 2% liquid strychnine for certified applicators in Canada to control Richardson's Ground Squirrels (RGS). I appreciate your taking the time to share with us a copy of a recent resolution passed by the Committee on this important topic. Health Canada acknowledges the implications the cancellation of the pesticide product containing strychnine could have on agricultural producers in Alberta and Western Canada and takes them seriously.

As you know, as outlined in [Re-evaluation Decision RVD2020-06, Strychnine and Its Associated End-use Products \(Richardson's Ground Squirrels\)](#) published on March 4, 2020, Health Canada concluded that the environmental risks associated with the use of strychnine for the control of RGS were not shown to be acceptable when used according to label directions and that no further feasible mitigation measures could be implemented by users of the product. Consequently, the registration of products containing strychnine used to control RGS was cancelled and a 3-year phase-out period was allowed until March 4, 2023.

In its decision, Health Canada recognized the value of strychnine because it is easy to use, cost effective and manages RGS in a single feeding. However, there are alternative pest control products registered to control RGS that are available to users: chlorophacinone, diphacinone, zinc phosphide, and aluminum phosphide. While these alternatives may have some limitations compared to strychnine, they were found to be efficacious against the target pest during the scientific review that led to their registration.

Re-instatement (i.e., re-registering) cannot be used to extend access to the use of a pest control product that has been cancelled. Rather, if there is new information that could demonstrate that a product has acceptable risk and value, this would need to be provided as part of a new registration application. Efforts to identify new products and to conduct additional research into RGS control could involve grower groups, registrants of potential alternative products, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and/or provincial representatives. Health Canada's PMRA will continue to be available to provide information and guidance regarding the registration process, and information on currently registered products.

Should you have further questions regarding pesticides and the federal pesticide regulatory system, please visit our website at [Canada.ca/pesticides](https://Canada.ca/pesticides). You may also contact our Pest Management Information Service by sending an e-mail to [pmra.info-arla@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:pmra.info-arla@hc-sc.gc.ca) by telephone, by dialing toll-free, 1-800-267-6315.

I trust that this information is helpful and thank you for writing.

Regards,

Geneviève

**Pest Management Information Service**

Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Health Canada

Government of Canada

**Service de renseignements sur la lutte antiparasitaire**

Agence de la réglementation de la lutte antiparasitaire

Santé Canada

Gouvernement du Canada

**From:** ASB Committee <asbprovcommittee@gmail.com>**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 8:59 AM**To:** PMRA Info / ARLA (HC/SC) <pmra.info-arla@hc-sc.gc.ca>**Cc:** aafc.minister-ministre.aac@agr.gc.ca; information@inspection.gc.ca**Subject:** Response Request - ASB Resolution 7-24

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**Attention:** Ce message provient d'un EXPÉDITEUR EXTERNE - soyez PRUDENT, en particulier avec les liens et les pièces jointes.

Dear Peter Brander,

Please find attached the requests for response to the resolutions passed at the 2024 Provincial Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Conference.

Alberta's ASB Provincial Committee represents 69 ASBs each representing the agriculture interest of their rural municipality. The ASBs comprise both elected municipal officials and appointed farmers that have legislated regulatory and advisory duties. Every year the ASBs attend a provincial conference and vote on resolutions submitted by their members. Resolutions passed at the Provincial ASB Conference are then given to the ASB Provincial Committee to act on.

Included in the attached letter is Resolution 7-24: RE-REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR CERTIFIED APPLICATORS asking Pest Management Regulatory Agency to allow strychnine to be used exclusively by certified applicators for the control of Richardson Ground Squirrels.

In order to meet our scheduled reporting commitments to our ASBs a response the Committee requests your response by April 15, 2024.

On behalf of the ASB Provincial Committee,

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Linda Hunt

Executive Assistant

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

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